

One individual owns or controls four licenses, one individual owns or controls two, and one corporation owns or controls three licenses. Since each license restricts the use of a minimum of 77 square miles of land, just these three groups control the use of 693 square miles of Nebraska land. That comes to approximately 44...or, I'm sorry, 443,000 acres across the State of Nebraska that cannot currently be used for controlled hunting and if you take all 38 licenses we're talking about 2,464 square miles of land that are not now being allowed to use their land as they would like. And it's not an inexpensive procedure. Not everyone is going to run right out and open up a controlled shooting area because the birds are expensive. The...the...the ground obviously is expensive. There are a lot of things that you have to do to have a controlled shooting area. We're talking about land here that private individuals are denied the use of simply because of the land... the laws that we have on the book and I believe that we have struck a compromise between those competing interests. It was brought out during the public hearing that in South Dakota, and I'm not extrapolating this to Nebraska but it's something for you to think about, in South Dakota on opening day of pheasant hunting season the State of South Dakota realizes an increase of income of 68 million dollars, just on opening day. This is accounted for by the increase in out-of-state hunting licenses, gasoline, hotels, food, shells, any miscellaneous hunting equipment or clothing, so you can see that this could be seen as an economic benefit for Nebraska as well if even close to those figures would be applicable to Nebraska. Senator Avery is here and if he has anything that he would like to say I would give him the remainder of my time.

SENATOR BERNARD-S.EVENS: Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Very good points that you made in terms of the economic impact that hunting and this type of recreation provides for the state, which is in the millions of dollars statewide. In terms of my portion of the legislation, which is the amend...on one of the amendments of LB 576, is... is basically more of a technical clean-up bill the Game and Parks Commission has and I'm not going, we've discussed it. I will just ask that you support 209 as we have it and I am willing to work and talk to anybody between now and Select File if they have questions, concerns. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator